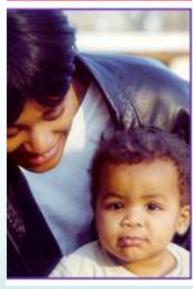
Early Learning Challenge Projects and Activities

House Select Committee on Early Education Improvement February 2, 2012











The Early Learning Challenge in North Carolina

- Opportunity for bold and transformative action to help assure that all of NC's young children come to school ready for success in school and in life
- Grant of \$70 million
- 4-year grant period:
 Jan 1, 2012–Dec 31, 2015
- A collaborative approach to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the system and the outcomes for children



NC's Plan: Four Areas of Focus

- Strengthen the state's early childhood system and build its capacity to foster positive outcomes for young children
- Enhance the quality of programs to serve young children and their families and improve access to high-quality programs
- Strengthen the early childhood workforce to increase staff and system effectiveness and sustain change
- Target high-intensity supports and community infrastructurebuilding efforts to turn around poor outcomes for young children in the state's highest-need counties



Implementation Strategy

- Lead Agency: Early Childhood Advisory Council responsible for overall coordination and specific projects
- Participating State Agencies—responsible for specific projects:
 - Division of Child Development and Early Education
 - Division of Public Health
 - Department of Public Instruction, Office of Early Learning
- Contracts and MOUs with other state and local agencies and organizations



Early Childhood Advisory Council projects

- Grants management and implementation support (\$6,708,211)
 - Grants management (\$4,478,211)
 - Evaluation (\$1,000,000)
 - Technical assistance reserve (\$400,000)
 - Transformation Zone state-level support (\$830,000)
- Integrated data system (\$8,894,351)



ECAC projects (cont'd)

- Professional development capacity building (\$75,000)
 - Professional Development Council (\$25,000)
 - Online Master's degree program (\$50,000)
- Partnership initiatives (\$10,043,872)
 - Transformation zone capacity building (\$2,757,572)
 - Leadership collaborative (\$2,112,736)
 - Faith-based child care engagement (\$338,588)
 - Assuring Better Health and Child Outcomes (\$2,665,609)
 - Child care health consultants (\$2,169,367)



Division of Child Development and Early Education projects

- Promoting participation in QRIS (\$2,017,266)
 - Incentives to support programs that voluntarily meet higher standards (\$750,000)
 - Support for programs to join QRIS (\$1,242,266)
 - Task force on licensing (\$25,000)
- QRIS program quality measure development (\$982,870)
- Increasing access to high-quality programs (\$4,491,852)
 - Support 1 & 2 star programs to earn higher rating (\$1,394,430)
 - Increase access to high quality infant-toddler care (\$2,497,422)
 - Early childhood workforce study (\$600,000)
- QRIS validation (\$2,393,000)



DCDEE projects (cont'd)

- Enhanced professional development (\$5,419,340)
 - Infant/toddler specialist (\$280,000)
 - Coaching, mentoring, and TA course (\$25,000)
 - Child Care Resource & Referral training enhancement (\$4,834,340)
 - Healthy behavior specialist (\$280,000)
- Early learning and development standards (\$281,000)
- Certification and licensure (\$1,425,000)
 - B-K teacher licensure support (\$800,000)
 - Educator efficacy endorsement & certification (\$625,000)



DCDEE projects (cont'd)

- Teacher education: access and articulation (\$593,000)
 - Community college accreditation (\$200,000)
 - Community college innovation fund (\$393,000)
- Compensation and retention (\$7,197,000)
 - WAGE\$ (\$4,000,000)
 - T.E.A.C.H.[®] Scholarships (\$3,197,000)
- Classroom community building (\$495,760)
- Program director leadership institute (\$1,214,340)



Division of Public Health projects

- Family strengthening (\$5,989,460)
 - NorthEast Connects (\$1,998,750)
 - Family strengthening initiatives (\$3,969,210)



Office of Early Learning projects

- K-3 assessment (\$9,769,801)
 - K-3 assessment (\$8,769,801)
 - Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA)
 - Formative assessment across the early grades (K-3)
 - Using data to improve classroom instruction (\$1,000,000)
 - Supports school and classroom efforts to improve school experiences of children
- Family engagement (\$2,000,000)
 - Utilizes Head Start grantees as "hubs" for professional development

NC's Goals

Dramatically improved outcomes for North Carolina's young children

A stronger and more competitive economy for North Carolina



